



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **HUMAN SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS**

NEW HAVEN, CT—Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Amit Patel, age 37, a native and citizen of India who resided in Danbury, Conn., was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to 36 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, on his conviction for bringing an alien into the United States for financial gain. Patel is also subject to deportation at the conclusion of his term of imprisonment. Patel pleaded guilty to the charge on March 3, 2005.

On September 21, 2004, a federal grand jury sitting in New Haven returned a 44-count Indictment against Patel, alleging that on several occasions from in or about June 2003 through in or about April 2004, Patel received from his co-conspirator couriers aliens who used fraudulent travel documents to enter the United States from Great Britain. After receiving these aliens, it is alleged that Patel either transported them to a location within the United States, or arranged for their transport within the United States. On certain occasions, it is alleged that Patel then mailed the aliens' travel documents back to his co-conspirators in Great Britain.

Patel pleaded guilty to Count 16 of the Indictment.

Fourteen of Patel's alleged co-conspirators are named in the Indictment. They are being prosecuted in Great Britain. More information on the prosecution of these individuals can be found at: [www.nationalcrimesquad.police.uk/media/article.jsp?id=112](http://www.nationalcrimesquad.police.uk/media/article.jsp?id=112).

"On a daily basis, world events remind us of the importance of having secure borders," U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated. "Individuals who smuggle people into this country for profit and without regard for who their cargo are or what they plan to do when they get here represent a danger to our society and will be prosecuted vigorously."

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated that this investigation is ongoing, and that the individuals who Patel is alleged to have assisted in illegally entering the United States are actively being sought by law enforcement.

“The success of this case is the result of outstanding cooperation between law enforcement partners here and abroad,” said Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in New England. “Smuggling networks are criminal organizations motivated solely by greed that show no regard for the domestic security of this country. ICE is committed to disrupting and dismantling criminal smuggling operations worldwide.”

On June 24, 2004, Patel was arrested on a civil immigration charge when he was discovered to be illegally residing in the United States. He has been detained since his arrest.

This case is being investigated by special agents of ICE, under the Department of Homeland Security, and detectives from the National Crime Squad of England and Wales. The Danbury Police Department and the United Kingdom Immigration Services assisted in the investigation.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Krishna R. Patel.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*